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CONTRACTS FOR FARM PRODUCE -- Svobodne Slovo, No 44, 22 Feb 49

Indications are that the program for signing contracts for production and delivery of agricultural products will be fulfilled by the target date, 28 February. The municipalities are to report their results to the okres, by 24 February; the okres to the kraj, by 26 February; and the kraj to the Ministry of Agriculture, by the end of February.

RETTED FLAX -- Svobodne Slovo, No 46, 24 Feb 49

For 5 years, retted flax has been producing large profits in Czechoslovakia. The financial yield per hectare for retted flax is about 40 percent greater than for unretted flax. Also, the producer of retted flax is entitled to linen cloth worth more than 30 percent of the value of the flax he delivered, whereas the producer of unretted flax is entitled to only 20 percent.

Retting of flax can be started immediately. March and April are the most favorable months for spring retting, as there is ample moisture then and the leaves do not grow.

The time required depends upon temperature, rainfall, and morning dew. Under favorable conditions, flax can be retted in 4 to 5 weeks, while in dry weather more than 8 weeks may be required.

CHEB OKRES TO PLANT ORCHARDS -- Svobodne Slovo, No 46, 24 Feb 49

Plans for the Cheb cadastral district call for the planting of 8,000 fruit trees of all kinds. Another 7,000 trees will be planted in the neighborhood of Cheb Okres, so that this area will not have to depend upon imports of fruit from other okres in the future.

WINDBREAKS IN SOUTHERN MORAVIA -- Rude Pravo, No 48, 26 Feb 49

In southern Moravia, particularly in Znojmo Okres, there are year-round dry winds, which rapidly desiccate the soil. In Znojmo Okres these winds blow up to 250 days per year. Most of the winds are mild, but some are so strong that they pick up the loose soil from the fields and carry it away.

In an effort to check the effects of these winds as much as possible, windbreaks are being built in southern Moravia. Sets of deciduous and coniferous trees have been planted in a 20-meter belt throughout the southern part of the okres. Similar belts have been planted perpendicularly from the boundaries of Znojmo Okres to the interior. These windbreaks will considerably mitigate the effects of the winds, and will contribute to the greater productivity of the region.

HATCHERIES IN BOHEMIA -- Svobodne Slovo, No 48, 26 Feb 49

At the Ripek hatchery of the Madeta cooperative of Tabor Okres, 93,000 chicks were hatched in 1948. The 1949 plan calls for 114,259, but the hatchery already has orders for 130,000 chicks.

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In 1940, when there was little interest in scientific poultry breeding, the Madeta cooperative offered chickens, henhouses, and some feed to all applicants. The cooperative now has 27,000 poultrymen.

The farm at Ripeč near Mezimostí also has a dairy and cheese factory. The Madeta cooperative has another large hatchery for 10,000 chickens and 100 guinea fowl, geese, and ducks on its farm at Kasovice near Zeleč and is preparing a new modern hatchery for its Červený farm.

AGRICULTURAL RECRUITMENT -- Svobodné Slovo, No 40, 17 Feb 49

The spring plowing program will require the recruiting of 1,000 tractor drivers and 2,000 brigade workers to repair agricultural machinery in the Czech Provinces, and an additional 500 tractor drivers and 500 skilled brigade workers will be needed in Slovakia.

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